

## REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated April 24, 2009 (U.S. Patent Office Paper No. 20090420). In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

### Status of the Claims

As outlined above, claims 11-35 stand for consideration in this application, wherein claims 11 and 23 are being amended to correct formal errors and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention.

All amendments to the specification and to the claims are fully supported throughout the disclosure of the invention, including but not limited to paragraphs [0054] – [0058] of the specification and Figures 7-8. Applicants submit that no new matter is being introduced into this application through the submission of this response.

### Prior Art Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 11-13, 20, 21, 23-25, 32, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Moroto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,121,326). The Examiner rejected claims 14-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Moroto in view of Katou et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,006,161). The Examiner rejected claims 22, 34, and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Moroto in view of Nakayama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,732,385). Applicants have reviewed the above-noted rejections, and hereby respectfully traverse.

The present invention as recited in claim 11 is directed to a map display method for detecting the present position of a vehicle and displaying a road map including a vehicle position mark indicating the present position of the vehicle and a guide route along which the vehicle runs, comprising the steps of: preparing a summarized map indicating the guide route with a summarization degree corresponding to a distance from the present vehicle position to a destination or the running speed of the vehicle; displaying the summarized map thus prepared on a display means; and giving roads including the guide route, at least one main road and branch roads priorities in that order in the road map, wherein there is provided a table for storing ID for

identifying road data, categories indicating road type and priorities set for a road or roads, wherein the priorities in said table of said road or roads on the guide route and crossing roads intersecting with the guide route in the main road and the branch roads are changed in accordance with a dynamic change in the guide route and the crossing roads existing in an area displayed in the summarized map due to a change in the present position of the vehicle, and wherein the summarized map is prepared by selecting at least one road on the guide route and at least one road of the crossing roads from the roads based on the changed priorities.

The present invention as recited in claim 23 is directed to a map display method for detecting a present position of a vehicle and displaying a road map including a vehicle position mark indicating the present position of the vehicle and a guide route along which the vehicle runs, comprising the steps of: preparing a summarized map indicating the guide route with a summarization degree corresponding to a distance from the present position of the vehicle to a destination or a running speed of the vehicle; displaying the summarized map prepared on a display means; giving priorities to roads including the guide route, a main road and a branch road in this order in the road map, wherein there is provided a table for storing ID for identifying road data, categories indicating road type and the given priorities; changing the priorities in said table of a road or roads on the guide route and crossing roads intersecting with the guide route in the main road and the branch road in accordance with a dynamic change in the guide route and the crossing roads existing in an area displayed in the summarized map due to a change in the present position of the vehicle; and preparing the summarized map by selecting reads at least one road on the guide route and at least one road of the crossing roads from the roads based on the changed priorities, wherein a number of the selected roads does not exceed a limit number, the limit number being predetermined according to the summarization degree.

Among the features of the present invention, the priority of each road stored in the table are changed due to a change in the present position of the vehicle. Adding supplemental explanation, for example, there is a possibility of displaying a branch road intersecting with the guide route along which a driving car runs or a straight connected road connected linearly with a branch road on the display unit, even if a rank determined based on the road type is low.

In contrast to the present invention, the prior art reference of Moroto merely shows a departure point, a destination, roads and others that are selectively displayed on a display unit. In Moroto, roads are previously ranked in accordance with a main road, general roads and others.

Roads belonging to a road type designated as being more than a rank determined in accordance with a scale of a map are displayed together with the guide route to select objects to be displayed (refer to Abstract, and column 5, lines 44-65). Accordingly, once the priority is determined, it is not changed.

In Moroto, Applicants will contend that “dynamic change” only means that, when the vehicle running road is changed, a road to be selected as the guide route is changed, and thus the roads to be displayed are changed.

Consequently, Moroto does not disclose, teach or suggest any structure or operation that includes at least the features of giving roads including the guide route, at least one main road and branch roads priorities in that order in the road map, wherein there is provided a table for storing ID for identifying road data, categories indicating road type and priorities set for a road or roads, wherein the priorities in said table of said road or roads on the guide route and crossing roads intersecting with the guide route in the main road and the branch roads are changed in accordance with a dynamic change in the guide route and the crossing roads existing in an area displayed in the summarized map due to a change in the present position of the vehicle, and wherein the summarized map is prepared by selecting at least one road on the guide route and at least one road of the crossing roads from the roads based on the changed priorities, as in claim 11; or that includes giving priorities to roads including the guide route, a main road and a branch road in this order in the road map, wherein there is provided a table for storing ID for identifying road data, categories indicating road type and the given priorities; changing the priorities in said table of a road or roads on the guide route and crossing roads intersecting with the guide route in the main road and the branch road in accordance with a dynamic change in the guide route and the crossing roads existing in an area displayed in the summarized map due to a change in the present position of the vehicle, as in claim 23. Moroto by itself cannot anticipate or render obvious each and every feature of the present invention as claimed.

The secondary reference of Katou merely discloses a two-display system as shown in Fig. 5B, but does not disclose or suggest changing priority as in the present invention. Similarly, the secondary reference of Nakayama only discloses changing a scale ratio in accordance with the speed of the vehicle (refer to column 8, lines 11-18), but does not disclose a change of priority as in the present invention. Thus, neither of these references provides any disclosure, teaching or suggestion that can make up for the deficiencies in Moroto such that any or all of their

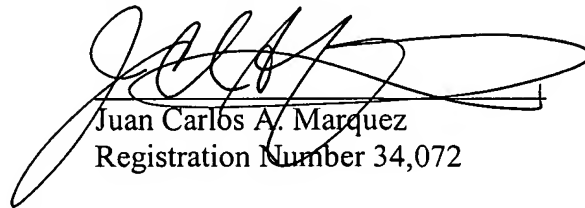
combinations could render every feature of the present invention obvious to one of skill in the art. Rather, even if all three references were combined, such a combination would still lack any structure or operation that embodies the features that are already lacking in Moroto as outlined above. The present invention as claimed is distinguishable and thereby allowable over the prior art of record.

### Conclusion

In view of all the above, Applicant respectfully submits that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art references upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely. These differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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